

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 3, 5, 10 through 13, 37 through 46, 54, and 56 through 64 are pending, with Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, and 37 being independent. Claims 12, 37 through 46, 58, 59, 63, and 64 were allowed. Claims 1, 2, 10, and 12 have been amended. The latter claim, which was allowed as mentioned above, is respectfully submitted to remain allowable.

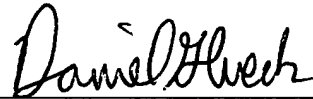
Applicants gratefully wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extending in granting and conducting on May 10, 2004, a personal interview with Applicants' representative. At the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, and 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, which are respectfully traversed, as well as proposed amendments to the claims. Applicants understand that the Examiner is in tentative agreement that (a) the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, would be withdrawn, and (b) the remaining rejections would be obviated by the proposed amendments. The claims have been amended as proposed, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel S. Glueck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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